

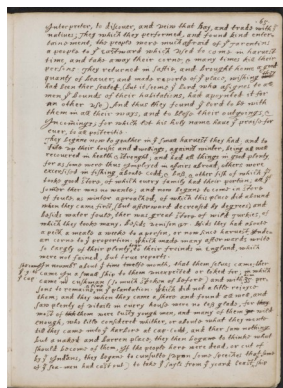
Friends of the State Library of Massachusetts NEWSBrief

November 2015

This November! Thanksgiving, William Bradford's Manuscript, and "The Pilgrims" on PBS

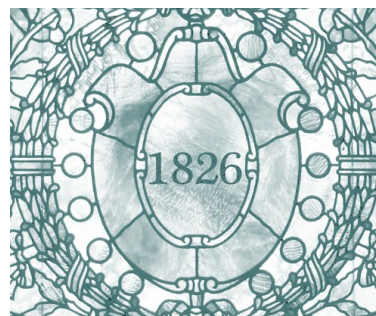
As Thanksgiving approaches, we reflect, give thanks, and perhaps ponder the mysteries behind this special holiday. The truth is, we do not know the details about the first Thanksgiving, despite the many generational stories and legends that have led us to believe certain "facts." In fact, the date of the feast was never confirmed; we only know it was between September and November, after the fall crops were harvested. Obviously, the first Thanksgiving was not well documented, and very few first-hand accounts are in existence that we currently know of. We are fortunate to have one of these accounts here at the

State Library of Massachusetts. The Bradford Manuscript is an original document written by author and Plymouth Colony Governor (1621-1657) William Bradford. It documents the Pilgrim voyage from England to the Netherlands to North America, the establishment of the Plymouth Colony, passenger lists and details, and of course, a vague description of the first Thanksgiving. Bradford does not cover the feast in great detail, however, we know that the meal was in celebration of a successful fall harvest, that 53 Pilgrims and 90 Wampanoag, including Squanto, were in attendance, and that



William Bradford's handwritten account of the first Thanksgiving

fowl and deer were served. William Bradford's account will be featured in "The Pilgrims," a new film by Ric Burns, premiering on the AMERICAN EXPERIENCE on PBS on Tuesday, November 24 at 8:00 PM EST and again on Thanksgiving Day at 9:30 PM EST. Don't forget to set your DVR!



Friends of the State Library of Massachusetts

If you would like to join us ... Please make check payable to the State Library of Massachusetts and send along with this form to:

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Our First Author Talk: With ... Sam Baltrusis

Just in time for Halloween, the State Library of Massachusetts was pleased to host the first in the Library's new "Author Talks" with Sam Baltrusis, author of the recently-published book *13 Most Haunted in Massachusetts* who spoke on myths and legends in Massachusetts and who tantalized his audience

with some creepy stories of ghosts and the paranormal by sharing his experiences and reading passages from his books. He is also the author of *Ghosts of Boston: Haunts of the Hub*, *Ghosts of Cambridge: Haunts of Harvard Square and Beyond*, and *Ghosts of Salem: Haunts of the Witch City*. Thank you, Sam for coming!



Sam Baltrusis at the S.K. Pierce Mansion, Gardner

Join us for our next Author Talk by Heather Cox Richardson on "To Make Men Free: A History of the Republican Party" from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. on Tues. Nov. 17.

Upcoming event on Dec. 10, 1 p.m.-2 p.m.: "Preserving Your Family's Papers" a workshop by Kelly Turner, State Library Preservation Librarian, and sponsored by the Friends of the State Library. Registration information coming soon! Plan to join us and feel free to email us for more details at:

Friends.StateLibrary@state.ma.us